



City of New Bedford
Scott W. Lang, Mayor

City of New Bedford
Office of the Mayor
Contact: Elizabeth Treadup
(508) 979-1410

Elizabeth.Treadup@newbedford-ma.gov

or

Patrick J. Sullivan, Director
Office of Housing & Community Development
(508) 979-1500

patrick.sullivan@newbedford-ma.gov

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P R E S S R E L E A S E

MORE THAN THREE MILLION DOLLARS IN FEDERAL FUNDS AWARDED TO THE CITY TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

New Bedford, Massachusetts- Mayor Scott Lang announced today that the City of New Bedford has recently been awarded \$1,719,678 in funding from a competitive grant and an additional \$1,359,668 in Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) entitlement funding to assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness in New Bedford. Both the competitive grant and \$131,648 of the entitlement award were part of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's [HUD] recent annual announcement of federal funding for homeless assistance programs. An additional \$1,228,020 in ESG funds were allocated to New Bedford as part of the recently passed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The additional one-time entitlement allocation is to be used for homeless prevention and stabilization activities including short and medium-term rental assistance, utility payments, housing search, mediation, and case management.

For the 13th consecutive year the City of New Bedford has received funding under the highly competitive Supportive Housing Program grant. The City, through the collaborative efforts of the Office of Housing & Community Development and the Homeless Service Provider's Network, will receive funding for five permanent housing and three transitional housing programs in addition to the operation of a Homeless Management Information System.

This award will provide funding to renew programs already in existence throughout the City. All eight of the City's Supportive Housing Program projects were up for renewal in the 2008 funding round for which the City submitted its application last October.

These programs include an award for \$248,654 for the "Family Preservation Program," a permanent supportive housing program operated by Southeast Regional Network, Inc., that will provide 12 units of housing throughout the City for homeless families. "Housing First," a second permanent housing program that serves both homeless families and

individuals is operated jointly by Catholic Social Services and Positive Action Against Chemical Addiction (PAACA) and received \$306,379. The project operates 58 units of scattered site supportive housing throughout the city.

In addition to these permanent housing initiatives, HUD also awarded \$97,884 to Steppingstone, Inc. to assist them in continuing their Graduate Program, a transitional housing program for 9 chronically homeless women. The remaining portion of the award includes funding for the City's Homeless Management Information System, a federally mandated statistical program that captures information about how these funds are utilized and who is being served by these programs.

In addition to the competitive funding, the City will receive its regular formula allocation of \$131,648 in Emergency Shelter Grant funding and an additional \$1.2 million in special ARRA funding for homeless prevention and housing stabilization activities. The regular ESG funds provide critical support for the City's emergency shelter system for essential services, prevention programs, and operational funds for homeless shelters including Market Ministries, Harbour House, and the Greater New Bedford's Women's Center.

Mayor Lang said, "This award of more than three million dollars to the City of New Bedford is a tremendous commitment of federal funds to existing, successful programs and signals a significant vote of confidence in the management and administration of these important resources." He congratulated the combined efforts of the City's Homeless Service Provider's Network [HSPN] and the Office of Housing and Community Development in the acquisition of these funds through a nationally competitive process.

Richard McMahon, Executive Director of the New Center for Legal Advocacy and Chair of the City's Homeless Service Provider Network added, "this award is the result of a collaborative and comprehensive process involving over fifty organizations, agencies and individuals comprising the HSPN. This body meets regularly to define homeless needs, our City's ability to respond to those needs, and how best to identify the gaps in that system. At a time of dwindling resources and burgeoning demand for services, the availability of this funding will provide a critical opportunity for many individuals confronting the housing crisis or otherwise facing homelessness."

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